

Serial No.: 09/583,386
Examiner: Erik Kielin

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 21, 22, 24, and 26 remain in the application. The applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claim 4 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claim 4 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 1, which it was originally dependent from. Claims 3, 21, 22, 24 and 26 have been amended to depend from claim 4, which is allowable as indicated in the Office Action. Therefore, dependent claims 3, 21, 22, 24 and 26 all should be considered allowable now. Claim 1 has been canceled. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, the applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance now.

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Conclusion

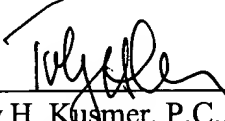
In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, the applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims 3, 4, 21, 22, 24 and 26 are in condition for allowance now, and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-1133.

Respectfully submitted,
McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Date: _____

7-25-05



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